DARK HORSE MANGA
BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL
82
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MOURNING SHADOWS: THE SHIFT
HIROAKI SAMURA
BLADE
OF THE IMMORTAL
DIRECT SALES

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

CAST OF CHARACTERS

gumbo-
Immortal Scanner

yuneko
Nice enough to
distro the stuff

THE STORY SO FAR

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No letters section in this issue

ENJOY!

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

art and story by

HIROAKI SAMURA

translation by

DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH

lettering and retouch by

TOMOKO SAITO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MANJI
Immortal *rōnin*

RIN
Last heir of the Mutenichi-*ryū dojō* destroyed by Itō *ryū*

ANOTSU
The leader of the Itto-*ryu* sword school

KENSHI
Head of the Shingyoto-*ryu*

HISOKA
Bride to Anotsu agreed to marriage as part of an arrangement to merge the Shingyoto-*ryū* into the Itō-*ryū*

THE STORY SO FAR

Infected by *kessenchu* mystical bloodworms which can heal all wounds and grant their host immortality Manji's bloodthirst led to the capture and murder of his sister To atone for the 100 good people who died at his hand under his corrupted lord Manji vowed to slay 1,000 evil men in exchange for the release of death

Two years earlier, when her parents were murdered on her fourteenth birthday by Anotsu Kagehisa's Itto-*ryū* swordsmen Rin Asano became part of a mad revenge cycle which began when Anotsu's grandfather was thrown out of the Asano clan's Mutenichi-*ryū dojō* fifty years before A quest for vengeance was instilled in Anotsu; a similar quest now haunts Rin Upon learning of Manji she enlisted his aid to destroy the Itto ryu and avenge her parents

After a long arduous journey, Rin has finally found Anotsu or rather it is Anotsu who finds Rin collapsed from thirst and exhaustion on a mountain path When she regains consciousness she is shocked to discover that it is he who has nursed her back to health In an attempt to throw Anotsu off guard, Rin asks if she can join the Itto-*ryu* However Anotsu expected something like this from Rin and refuses Their discussion is cut short by a small group of assassins who have come to take Anotsu's life And our story continues

designer DEBRA RAILEY assistant editor MICHAEL CARRIGLITTO editor TIM ERVIN-GORE publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

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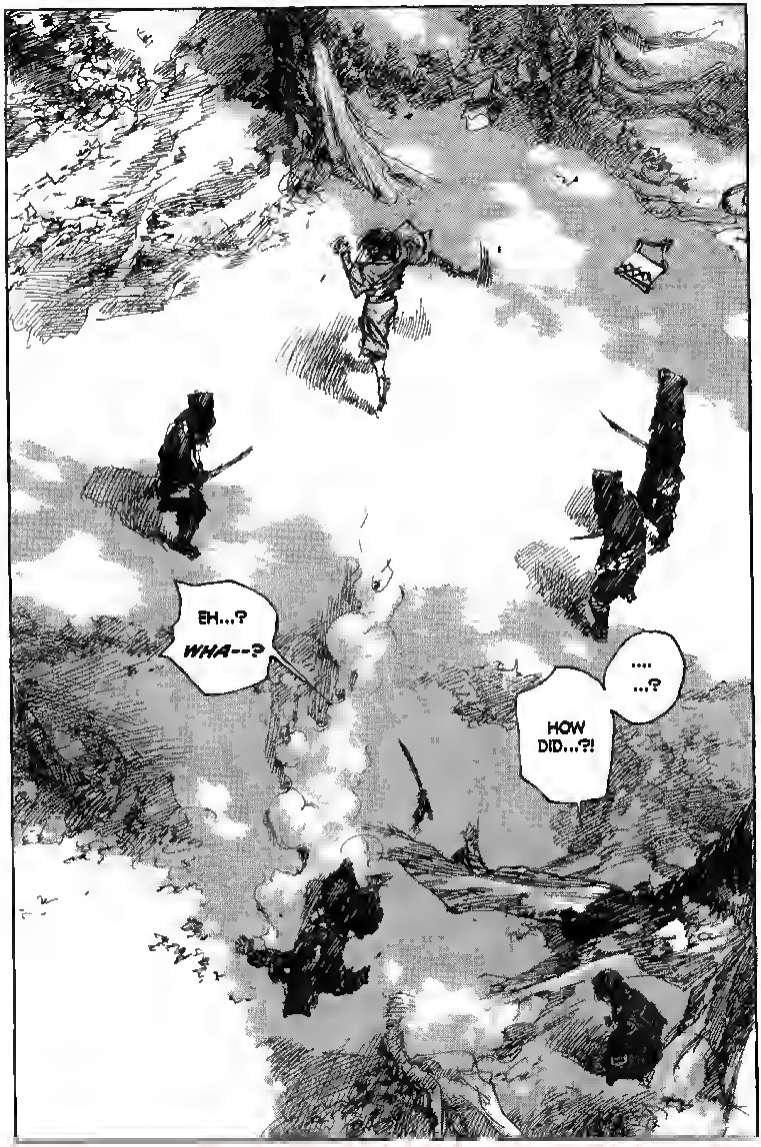
無限の住人

MOURNING SHADOWS

SHA!!


EH...?
WHA--?
....
...?
HOW DID...?!

....?!
AH...
UNNG!
AW, SHIT!
SHIT!
.....
.....
.....
THP
NEXT!
D-DAMN...!
.....
.....
.....
.....

SNAP
KANG!
KSH!
PU-PUH!

?!?
EH--
KRR
슈우우!

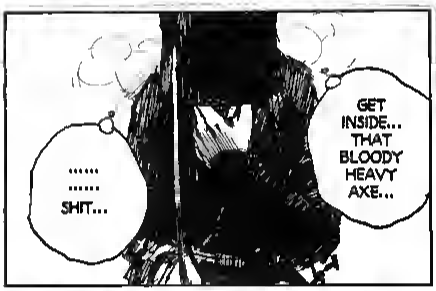
DIEEE
!?
!?!
.....!
Ohh~
KHHC
URNG!

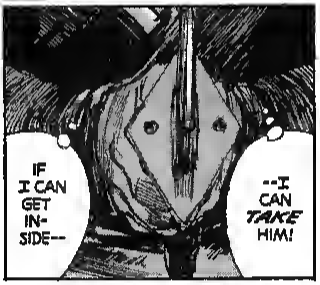
GROK

AH...?!
SEEN!
.....
.....
.....!

THE ITTŌ-RYŪ.
THOSE MEN WHO KILLED MY FATHER, ASANO TAKAYOSHI, TWO YEARS AGO... AND CRUSHED OUR DŌJŌ. LESS THAN TWENTY OF THEM...
...GIVING ALL WHO STOOD IN THEIR WAY THE SAME, SINGLE CHOICE-- "SUBMIT OR DIE."
JUST TWO YEARS, AND NOW THEIR FOLLOWERS NUMBER MORE THAN A THOUSAND IN EDO ALONE.
VAST, YET ISOLATED. "THE SWORD SCHOOL WITHOUT A STYLE." "THE WILD BERSERKERS."
AND BEFORE MY EYES, THE FOUNDATION AND THE PINNACLE...
...ANOTSU KAGEHISA.

I SAY THIS TO YOU, JUST IN CASE.
IF YOU FLEE, I WON'T PURSUE.


GET INSIDE... THAT BLOODY HEAVY AXE...
.... SHIT...

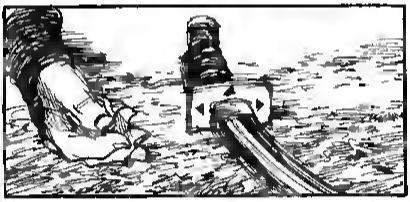

IF I CAN GET IN-SIDE--
--I CAN TAKE HIM!

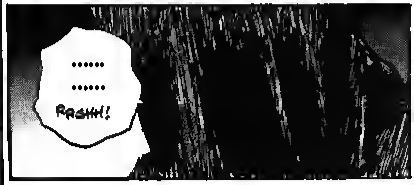
AH!
UHSSH
AUGH!
AH--
WASSH
FDD

.....
.....!
AH...
AH...
HYAAAAAA

.....
.....!
UGH!

NNG...




RASHH!

RYAAAAAA!

CHOK

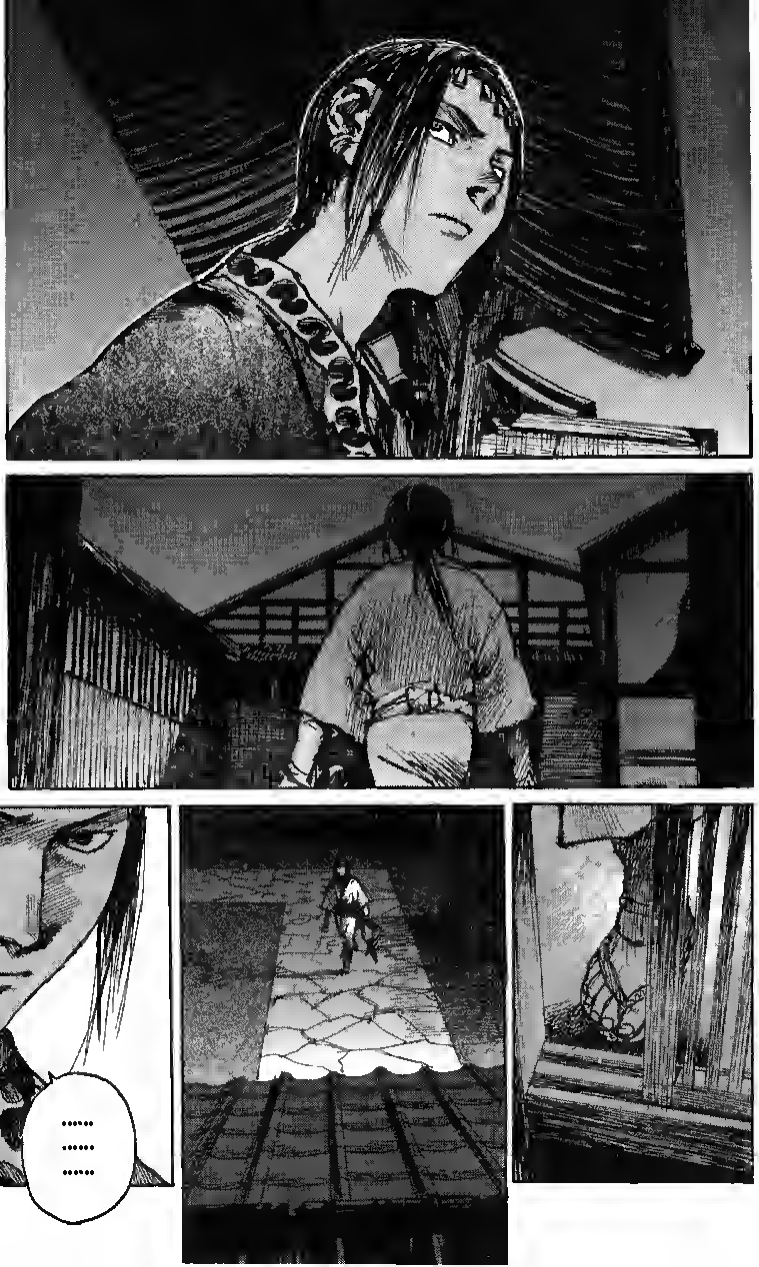
=huff=
.....
IT'S OVER.
.....
UM...
Y...
YEAH.
!!

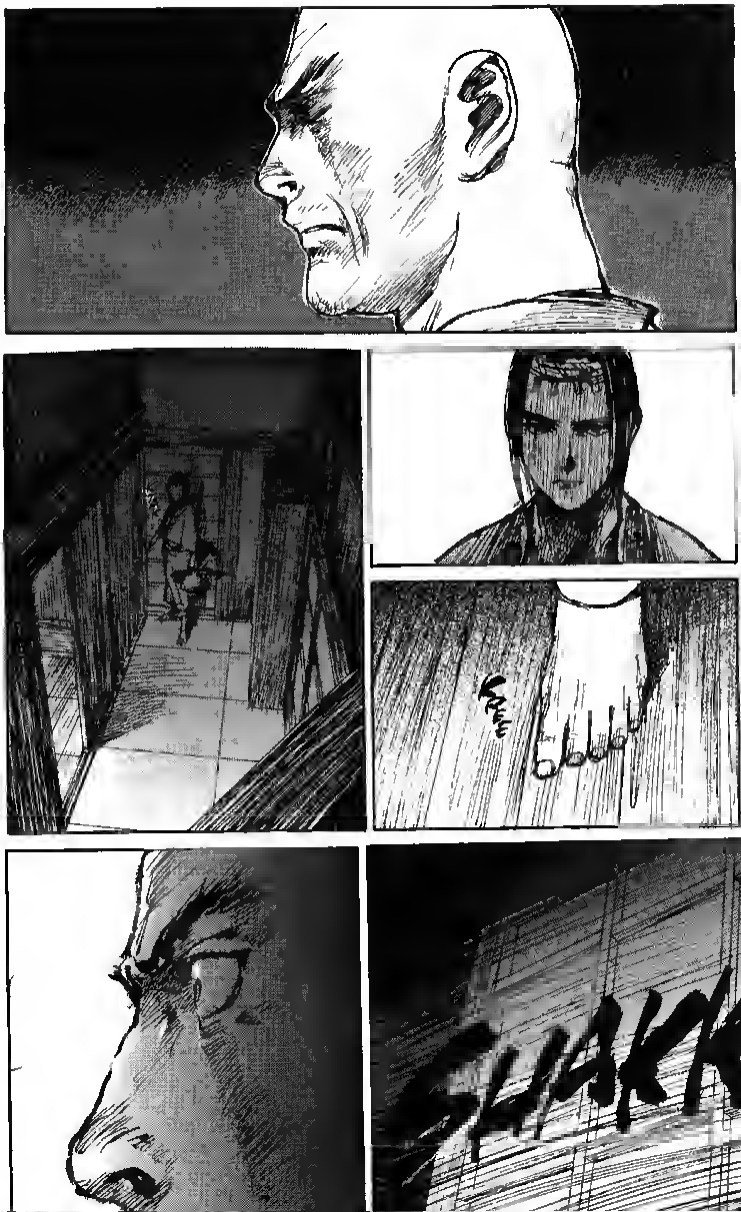
.....!
WHAT TH-?

.....
.....
THIS MAN...
.....
.....
.....?

THUD
HEY!! THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
.....
Eew
AH?!
W--
WAIT! COME BACK!
WHAT...

WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING TO?!
TELL ME!!




SLASHH

!
SHEEH

!
SHUK

TO BE CONTINUED...!